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## EDITORIAL

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The Committee on American Speech is launching a movement that promises to extend far beyond the National Council of Teachers of English, which appointed it. The **The National Speech League** committee is undertaking to organize a National Speech League, the members of which shall be, for the most part, outside of the teaching profession. Already the lively interest of artists, business men, and persons of affairs generally has been aroused. To do something to raise the standard and improve the quality of our speech—that is a project to enlist the co-operation of everybody who prays for a better America.

The moving spirit in the work is Professor John M. Clapp, of New York City, the secretary of the committee, who is ably supported by its chairman, Professor Calvin L. Lewis, of Hamilton College. Both have steady enthusiasm, good organizing power, and a clear vision of the object to be attained. With the assistance of the National Council they have been able to take the first steps in appealing to individuals and to groups in various states. There seems to be no reason to doubt that there will be a generous response to their efforts everywhere.

In the new situation the committee of the Council will have a twofold function. In the first place, it will seek to co-operate with the Speech League as in the case of other interested organizations. In the second place, it will have its own peculiar mission, namely, that of pointing the way to better training in speech in the schools, particularly at first in the elementary schools. In this connection it can continue to perform a valuable service in urging teachers of English to study phonetics and train their voices and in suggesting the most available and useful opportunities of doing this.